IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. The status of each claim is indicated. Amendments are shown with additions underlined and deletions in ~~strikethrough~~ text. No new matter is added by these amendments.

1. (Currently Amended) A stent for use within a body lumen of a patient, comprising:

(a) a unitarily formed coil segment defining a lumen therethrough and including a distal portion, a middle portion, and a proximal portion, the coil segment comprising a wound element including a plurality of windings spaced from each other along at least a portion of the length of the coil segment, the spaced windings being separated by a distance of at least about 0.5 millimeters, the coil segment being extendable lengthwise from a first length to an extended length and being compressible lengthwise from the extended length, at least one of the distal portion and the proximal portion including at least one hook to permit connection to a delivery system, the coil segment being reducible in width at least to an extent needed to pass the stent into the body lumen of the patient by winding the distal portion or the proximal portion about a longitudinal axis, each of the distal and proximal portions including a diameter greater than a diameter of the middle portion when the stent is positioned coaxially within the body lumen of the patient; and

(b) a flexible polymer material encapsulating the coil segment and disposed between the spaced windings of the wound element to form an imperforate flexible webbing between the windings that inhibits ingrowth of body tissue between the windings when the stent is placed within the body lumen of the patient while also maintaining the lumen of the coil segment open, the imperforate flexible webbing comprising an outer layer and an inner layer, the outer and inner layers adhered together to encapsulate the coil segment, the imperforate flexible webbing being sufficiently pliable to twist along with the coil segment without tearing.

2. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein the wound element comprises a wire of a biocompatible material.

3. (Original) The stent according to claim 2 wherein the biocompatible material is selected from the group consisting of stainless steel, titanium, a nickel-titanium alloy, or a polymer.

4. (Original) The stent of claim 2 wherein a cross-sectional area of the wire is in the range of from about 7.9×10^{-3} millimeters^2 to about 7.1 millimeters^2.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The stent of claim 1 wherein the flexible polymer material comprises a low durometer silicone.

8. (Original) The stent of claim 7 wherein the low durometer silicone has a Shore A hardness in the range of from about 0 durometers to about 60 durometers.

9-16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1 wherein the spaced windings of the coil segment are separated by a distance of at least about 0.5 millimeters at the distal portion of the coil segment.

18. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 17 wherein the spaced windings of the coil segment are separated by a distance of at least about 0.5 millimeters at the middle portion and the proximal portion of the coil segment.

19. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1 wherein the spaced windings of the coil segment are separated by a distance of at least about 0.5 millimeters when the stent is positioned within the urethra of a patient.

20. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1 wherein the coil segment provides sufficient radial strength to maintain an open passageway through a patient's prostatic urethra.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 1 wherein the stent is configured to extend from near the opening of a patient's bladder, through the patient's prostatic urethra and terminate before the patient's external sphincter.

23. (Canceled)